Political Science

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The Department of Political Science offers a broad range of courses organized in six traditional subfields of political science, each with their own designated faculty members: comparative politics, formal theory and methodology, international relations, public policy, political theory, and United States politics. Faculty members employ varied theoretical and methodological approaches but share the pursuit of answers to questions with real-world implications. Political science majors or minors gain a thorough understanding of how power, politics, and people converge. To add depth and context to academic offerings, the department sponsors distinguished speakers—experts in fields such as foreign policy, political theory, and international relations.

Careers

An undergraduate degree in political science provides a strong foundation for any number of career choices. With the analytical and communication skills mastered while earning a political science degree, students may pursue a career in government at the local, state, or federal levels, at nonprofit organizations, nongovernmental organizations, or private industries. Recent surveys indicate that students who combine university studies with either work or internships in local government agencies are more likely than majors without such experience to obtain government employment after graduation.

Political science graduates may also continue on to graduate education, especially in the fields of law, international studies, business administration, or advanced studies in political science.

Faculty


Dennis C. Galvan, professor (Africa, development, comparative politics); vice provost for international affairs. See International Studies.


Daniel Tichenor, professor (American presidency, interest groups and social movements, US political institutions); Philip H. Knight Chair. BA, 1988, Earlham College; PhD, 1996, Brandeis. (2008)


Emeriti


Daniel Goldrich, professor emeritus. BA, 1955, Antioch; MA, 1957, PhD, 1959, North Carolina, Chapel Hill. (1963)
Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

politics, international relations, political theory, and United States politics. Undergraduate majors focus their study in four subfields: comparative political science before taking 400-level courses. Have prerequisites. Students are advised to have at least 8 credits in division.

At the discretion of the instructor, certain 300- and 400-level courses may have prerequisites. Students are advised to have at least 8 credits in political science before taking 400-level courses. Undergraduate majors focus their study in four subfields: comparative politics, international relations, political theory, and United States politics.

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower division course in comparative politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower division course in international relations</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower division course in United States politics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course in political theory (any level) 4
Upper division course in one subfield 1 4
Upper division course in a second subfield 1 4
Upper division course in a third subfield 1 4
Upper division writing-intensive course 2 4
Additional upper-division courses 16

Total Credits 48

1 A minimum of two 400-level courses are required. A complete list of courses and their assigned subfields is available on the department website. Course subfields are also indicated by notes in the class schedule.

2 A list of courses designated as "writing-intensive" is available on the department website and indicated by a note in the class schedule.

Additional Requirements

The 48 credits that satisfy major requirements must be taken for letter grades and passed with C– or better with the exception that one course (as many as 4 credits) may be taken pass/no pass (P/N). Courses such as Thesis (PS 403) and Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411) are offered pass/no pass only and may be applied to the 48 credits. Credits earned in Practicum: [Topic] (PS 409) may not be applied to the major.

No more than a total of 16 credits in Research: [Topic] (PS 401), Thesis (PS 403), Internship: [Topic] (PS 404), Reading and Conference: [Topic] (PS 405), Workshop: [Topic] (PS 408), Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411), and Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) may be applied toward the 48-credit requirement. These courses do not fulfill a subfield requirement. Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) is subject to preapproval by the political science department.

No more than 8 credits of Internship: [Topic] (PS 404) or Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) may be applied toward the 48 credits. This work must be done under the direction of a faculty member who, prior to registration, must approve and set up academic criteria to evaluate the work. Credit for these courses must be earned at the University of Oregon.

Work completed in Special Studies: [Topic] (PS 199) or Special Studies: [Topic] (PS 399), Seminar: [Topic] (PS 407), or Experimental Course: [Topic] (PS 410) may be included in the 48-credit requirement and counted toward a subfield requirement.

UO bachelor's degree requirements also apply.
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No more than a total of 16 credits in Research: [Topic] (PS 401), Thesis (PS 403), Internship: [Topic] (PS 404), Reading and Conference: [Topic] (PS 405), Workshop: [Topic] (PS 408), Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411), and Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) may be applied toward the 48-credit requirement. These courses do not fulfill a subfield requirement. Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) is subject to preapproval by the political science department.

No more than 8 credits of Internship: [Topic] (PS 404) or Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) may be applied toward the 48 credits. This work must be done under the direction of a faculty member who, prior to registration, must approve and set up academic criteria to evaluate the work. Credit for these courses must be earned at the University of Oregon.

Work completed in Special Studies: [Topic] (PS 199) or Special Studies: [Topic] (PS 399), Seminar: [Topic] (PS 407), or Experimental Course: [Topic] (PS 410) may be included in the 48-credit requirement and counted toward a subfield requirement.

UO bachelor's degree requirements also apply.

Freshmen and Transfer Students

There are no departmental requirements for entering freshmen. Students planning to transfer to the university from two-year colleges should take the basic introductory political science courses offered at those institutions. At least 20 credits in upper-division graded political science courses must be completed in residence at the University of Oregon to qualify for a BA or BS degree in political science. Transfer students must meet the subfield distribution requirement.

Second Bachelor’s Degree or Second Major

Students who want to earn a second bachelor’s degree or a second or double major in political science must complete 48 credits in political science, as outlined under Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements (p. 2) or Bachelor of Science Degree Requirements (p. 2). Students who are considering a second bachelor's degree and have prior political science credits should consult with the undergraduate advisor, John Davidson. Some of these prior credits may not be applicable to the second bachelor's degree.

Honors in Political Science

Political science majors who have reached junior standing and meet GPA minimums are eligible to graduate with honors. The honors program spans the spring term of a student’s junior year to the spring term of the senior year. GPA minimums must be maintained to participate—an overall grade point average for UO and transfer credits of at least 3.50, plus a 3.70 GPA or above in the political science major. Students must successfully complete Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411) during fall term of the academic year in which the thesis is completed, then complete 4 credits in Thesis (PS 403) in the following winter term. Honors students select a thesis advisor and reader; the advisor supervises and grades the thesis course. The thesis advisor and reader determines if the thesis is approved for honors distinction after eligibility is determined prior to graduation.

Minor Requirements

Political science courses 8
Upper-division political science courses 1 16
Total Credits 24

1 Only 6 credits may be in Research: [Topic] (PS 401), Reading and Conference: [Topic] (PS 405), and Workshop: [Topic] (PS 408).

All credits must be taken for letter grades and passed with grades of C– or better. As many as 8 credits may be transferred from another institution.

Thesis (PS 403), Internship: [Topic] (PS 404), Practicum: [Topic] (PS 409), Honors Thesis Prospectus (PS 411), and Overseas Study: Internships (OINT 488) do not count toward the minor. The minor in political science does not have a subfield requirement.

Kindergarten through Secondary Teaching

Careers

Students who complete a degree with a major in political science are eligible to apply to the College of Education's fifth-year licensure program in middle-secondary teaching or the fifth-year licensure program in elementary teaching. More information is available in the College of Education section of this catalog.

Four-Year Degree Plan

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Course Title Credits
First Year
Fall
WR 121 College Composition I 4
PS 100–200 level course

Students should ensure enrollment in subfield and writing-intensive requirements. Courses that apply to subfield and writing-intensive requirements are indicated by notes in the Class Schedule. Meet with the political science academic advisor to be sure you are on target.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First term of first-year second-language sequence</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Winter**

Second term of first-year second-language sequence | 4
WR 122 or 123 | 4
General-education science group-satisfying course | 4
PS 100–200 level course | 4

**Credits** | **16**

**Spring**

Third term of first-year second-language sequence | 4
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course | 4
General-education social science group-satisfying course | 4
PS 300–400 level course | 4

**Credits** | **16**

**Total Credits** | **48**

**Course** | **Title** | **Credits** | **Milestones**

**Second Year**

**Fall**

First term of second-year second-language sequence | 4
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course | 4
General-education social science group-satisfying course | 4

**Winter**

Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures | 4
General-education science group-satisfying course | 4
PS 300–400 level course | 4
Elective course | 4

**Credits** | **16**

**Third Year**

**Fall**

General-education science group-satisfying course | 4
PS 300–400 level course | 4
General-education social science group-satisfying course | 4
Elective course | 4

**Credits** | **16**

Consider pursuing an internship. Students may receive credit for internship participation in PS 406. See eligibility details at polisci.uoregon.edu.

**Winter**

Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures | 4
General-education science group-satisfying course | 4
PS 300–400 level course | 4
Elective course | 4

**Credits** | **16**
Spring
PS 300–400 level course
Consider applying for the honors program. See eligibility details at polisci.uoregon.edu.

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<tr>
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<td>8</td>
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Course Title Credits Milestones

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

Course Title Credits Milestones

First Year
Fall
MATH 106  University Mathematics II  4
WR 121   College Composition I    4
PS 100–200 level course
Students should ensure enrollment in subfield and writing-intensive requirements. Courses that apply to subfield and writing-intensive requirements are indicated by notes in the Class Schedule. Meet with the political science academic advisor to be sure you are on target.

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Winter
MATH 107   University Mathematics III  4
WR 122 or 123  4
PS 100–200 level course  4
General-education science group-satisfying course  4

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Spring
MATH 111   College Algebra  4
PS 100–200 level course  4
General-education science group-satisfying course  4
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures  4

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Second Year
Fall
PS 100–400 level political theory course  4
General-education social science group-satisfying courses  8
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course  4

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Winter
PS 300–400 level course  4
Multicultural course in American cultures or international cultures  4
General-education arts and letters group-satisfying course  4

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The Department of Political Science offers a graduate program of studies leading to the master of arts (MA), master of science (MS), and doctor of philosophy (PhD) degrees. The program is designed to prepare students for teaching, research, and government or other public service, and to enable them to understand and participate in public affairs.

Members of the faculty offer advanced courses and seminars across the major fields of political science. Graduate student participation in joint faculty-student research and interdepartmental research projects is common on a wide range of topics.

### Admission

Successful applicants usually meet or exceed the following admission requirements for the master’s and doctoral degree programs:

1. Official transcripts showing a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher for all undergraduate and graduate academic work
2. Official scores on the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) taken within the last five years, with a combined verbal and quantitative score of 300.
3. International students from non-English-speaking countries must submit results from one of the following standardized language tests: Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 575 (paper-based) or 88 (Internet-based);
English Language Testing System (IELTS) with a minimum score of 7.0
4. A statement of purpose prepared by the student
5. Recommendations from at least three teachers from whom courses have been taken
6. Other evidence that may be helpful in reaching a decision. Although an undergraduate major in political science is not a prerequisite for admission, the committee takes into consideration previous academic work in political science

Application information and information about the graduate program and graduate employee appointments may be obtained by visiting the department’s website. The deadline for fall term admission and graduate employee appointment applications is February 1.

Master’s Degree Program
The master’s degree program prepares students for professional careers in teaching and research. Two years is the typical period for completing the program.

Master of Arts Degree Requirements
• Completion of 45 credits of graduate course work
• Completion of required courses as specified by the department
• Demonstrated proficiency in qualitative and quantitative research methods
• Completion of a master's degree thesis

Master of Science Degree Requirements
• Completion of 45 credits of graduate course work
• Completion of required courses as specified by the department
• Demonstrated proficiency in qualitative and quantitative research methods
• Completion of a master's degree thesis

See the Graduate School section of this catalog for the distinction between MS and MA degree requirements.

Doctoral Program
This program is designed to allow the well-prepared student to complete course requirements for the PhD in two years of full-time study. Students complete a research paper in their second year and take comprehensive examinations during their third year, followed by preparation of a dissertation. Requirements for the PhD in political science include the following:

1. Completion of 100 credits (18 credits are for dissertation) beyond the bachelor’s degree. Research: [Topic] (PS 601) and Reading and Conference: [Topic] (PS 605) may be taken pass/no pass. All other course work must be taken for letter grades
2. Completion of State of the Discipline (PS 620), to be taken the first time it is offered
3. Demonstrated proficiency in quantitative and qualitative research methods
4. Completion of a research paper no later than the sixth term of enrollment (excluding summer)
5. Completion of required seminars in the two area fields in which the student takes comprehensive examinations. Students should take these seminars as early as possible, and prior to examination

6. Passing two comprehensive examinations: one major field and one minor field, selected from the list below. Each field comprises several themes from which the student must choose a subset
• classical and contemporary political theory
• comparative politics
• formal theory and methodology
• international relations
• public policy
• United States politics
7. After passing the comprehensive examinations, completion of 18 credits in Dissertation (PS 603), to be taken while completing the PhD dissertation
8. Defense of the written dissertation in an oral examination

A complete description of graduate requirements, including an explanation of themes and field requirements, is available on the department website (http://polisci.uoregon.edu).